

Clifton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
Loving God ~ Loving One Another ~ Loving the World

Breath Prayer

INHALE: God of Rest, EXHALE: Grow in me as I grow in you



everything
[in] between
rest & growth

March 23, 2025
9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*
10:00 AM *Worship*

Sunday 3 of Lent

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*Words in **BOLD** indicate the congregation reading together. Words of the worship leader are in PLAIN type. An asterisk * indicates that the congregation may stand, as you wish.*

Gathering Song

[Lay Me Low](#)

One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can find me. **All: where God can find me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can hold me. **All: where God can hold me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: where God can bless me. **All: where God can bless me.**
One: Lay me low, **All: Lay me low,**
One: oh, lay me low. **All: oh, lay me low.**

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

One: Worship is a place to rest.

All: We breathe deeply here.

One: We still our aching bones.

All: We sit in the quiet.

One: We surround ourselves with music.

All: Worship is a place to rest.

One: Worship is a place to grow.

All: We listen for God's word.

One: We invite it to challenge us.

All: We lean in with curiosity.

One: We ask questions.

All: Worship is a place to grow.

One: So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

All: For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.

One: Let us worship our gracious God.

***Opening Hymn GtG 393**

O Day of Rest and Gladness *vv. 1, 2*

**1 O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness,
most beautiful, most bright;
on you, the high and lowly,
through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy"
to the great God triune.**

**2 On you, at earth's creation
the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation
Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious
sent Spirit forth from heaven.
And thus on you, most glorious,
a triple light was given.**

Drawing Near to God's Grace

One: Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again.

So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace again.

One: Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest.

**All: We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.
We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.**

One: There are also days when we fail to act.

**All: We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.
We find excuses and justify our inaction.**

One: God, forgive our imbalance.

**All: Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.
Show us how to do the same. Amen.**

Assurance of God’s Grace

One: Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

All: God’s grace is deeper than the ocean. God’s love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sing Glory GtG 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

One: Christ’s work of reconciliation offers us forgiveness for our sins and the possibility of genuine fellowship and reconciliation in community. As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us share the peace of Christ with each other, and commit to living as peacemakers in this world. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Those in the sanctuary are invited to greet those around you.

Those on zoom are invited to offer greetings in the chat.

Offering our Gifts to God

For those who would like to make a physical offering, the offering plates are available in the middle of the sanctuary. Donations can also be made online. www.cliftonpc.org

One: Disciples of Jesus, children of God, we often spend our money on that which is not true bread, and labor toward things that will never satisfy. In our offering, we give to things that are of God: bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed, the ministries of the church that welcome neighbors and strangers alike.

We give to God a portion of what God has so freely given to us. Let us pray.

All: God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and days of plenty, you are with us. By the gifts that we share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us - not only our offerings but our very selves - to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere in one beloved community; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination *Open My Heart by Ana Hernández*

Open my heart, open my heart.

Open my heart, open my heart.

First Reading Exodus 16:22-26 (NRSVUE)

²² On the sixth day (the Israelites) gathered twice as much food, two omers apiece. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, ²³ he said to them, "This is what the LORD has commanded: Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning." ²⁴ So they put it aside until morning, just as Moses commanded them, and it did not rot, and there were no maggots in it. ²⁵ Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none."

One: God be in our listening, God be in our understanding.

All: Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Luke 13:6-9 (NRSVUE)

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

One: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**Everything In Between
Rest & Growth**

Diane Walton Hendricks

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response GtG 250 In the Bulb There Is a Flower *vv. 1-3*

**1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

Minute for Ministries

Ringing of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response PH 535 Go With Us, Lord

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We can be reached at office@cliftonpc.org

Prayers and Liturgy adapted by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org
and Feasting of the Word Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed. WJK: Louisville. 2012.
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Thanks to those leading us in worship

Hosts: Rene Law and Barbara Brown

Deacon Note Taker: Evan Gass

Liturgist: Jen Basham

Technical Team: Steve Landry

Mission Elder: Kimberly Davis

CPC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor

John Kim, Music Director

Hannah Harris, Lead Vocalist

Debbie Kilpatrick, Office Administrator

Kate Trussell, Preschool Director

Rev. Dr. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, Pastor Emerita

Clifton Presbyterian Church is a welcoming Christian community driven by compassion, generosity, resilience, and service to others.